(b) if so, whether it is in line with Government's policy on this subject;

(c) if so, whether the same is permitted; and

(d) if not the action taken/proposed to be taken for the strict compliance of Government's policy issued on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has issued broad guidelines dated 17.11.2005 on reconstitution of dealerships/distributorships by which the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) were advised to frame their own detailed guidelines on the basis of the broad guidelines issued by the Ministry.

As per the aforesaid guidelines, there is no restriction of time period for reconstitution of dealership within the family as well as outside family in case of (i) death of sole proprietor/ partner in favour of legal heirs, (ii) in case of incapacitation due to serious illness/accident of dealers/distributors/partner, and (iii) in case where age of the dealer/distributor/partner is more than 60 years of age.

However, in case of reconstitution outside family for induction of financial partner in respect of dealerships/distributorships where selections were done as per earlier guidelines which prescribed a ceiling limit of income, there is restriction of time to complete such reconstitution. In this reagard, OMCs had prescribed a time limit of up to December 2007, which has been subsequently extended up to 31.12.2010 by them.

Under-Recovery of Oil Marketing Companies

4259. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been under-recovery for the current fiscal on the sale of petroleum products-petrol, diesel, LPG and kerosene to the tune of Rs. 1,30,000 crore by the public sector oil marketing companies in the country;

(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken to check the losses incurring to the PSUs;

(c) if so, the details thereof and their possible impact in containing the rising losses;

(d) the details regarding the net impact after issuing the oil bonds; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (e) The gross under-recoveries of the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) on the sale of sensitive petroleum products i.e. Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG for the year 2007-08 are estimated to be approximately Rs. 77,303 crore.

The Government has a multi-pronged strategy to contain the adverse impact of the high international oil prices on the economy and on consumers which includes rationalization of duties and taxes on petroleum products, besides streamlining the delivery system of PDS Kerosene for better targeting of the subsidy and to plug leakages, encouraging the use of Bio-fuels, etc.

The Government has also issued Oil Bonds to the OMCs worth Rs. 20.333 crore and Upstream Oil Companies have contributed Rs. 15,873 crore to partially compensate the under-recoveries of OMCs during the year 2007-08 (April-December, 2007). For the same period, the impact absorbed by the OMCs after the issue of Bonds and subsidies by the Upstream Oil Companies, is likely to be Rs. 11,413 crore.

Supply of piped Petroleum Gas in Tamil Nadu

4260. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to take any steps for the supply of piped petroleum gas for the household use in Chennai and other cities/towns in the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this proposal is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The expansion of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) infrastructure in different cities in the coutnry is being taken up in a phased manner. In order to promote investment from public as well as private sector for laying trunk natural gas pipelines and city/local natural gas distribution networks throughout the country, the Government of India has enacted 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006' and has notified the 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks'. Providing of CNG facilities depends upon availability of gas, setting up of necessary infrastructure and economic viability. Implementation of City Gas Distribution Projects in the State of Tamil Nadu has not been taken up, as of now.

Production of crude Oil

4261. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set for production of crude oil during each of the last three years and achievement made thereon;

(b) the details of the investment made during the said period, Company-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the demand of pertroleum products in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) the details of target vis-a-vis actual achievements for production of crude oil for the last three years are as under:

Million Metric Tonnes (MMT)

Companies	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
ONGC			
Target	26.614	27.350	27.160
Achievements	24.404	26.051	25.944*
OIL			
Target	3.30	3.50	3.50
Achievements	3.233	3.107	3.101*

* Provisional